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McCone Selection Criticized by Some

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SOMETIME this week John A. McCone will return to Washington, ready to begin the process of taking control of the Central Intelligence Agency. His surprise appointment has caused murmurs and muttering, to put it mildly, on some sectors of the New Frontier.



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One member of the Washington in-

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telligence community who deals with the CIA called the appointment "outrageous." A number of scientists-in-Government, likewise, were furious. There have been reports that some CIA employees were threatening to resign and a number of others are at least in a skeptical mood today.

But public, on-the-record, opposition so far has been minute. Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.), commented the other day that "there is nothing particular to recom-

mend Mr. McCone as director of the CIA."

But Sen. Clinton P. Anderson (D-N.M.) called McCone "a very able, conscientious public servant," adding: "Though we did not always see eye to eye, he stuck to his commitments to me." Anderson was speaking of the years when McCone was President Eisenhower's Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Senator was Chairman of the Joint Congressional Atomic Committee.

Well-informed persons insist that James R. Killian, who now heads the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was so out of sorts over the appointment that he threatened to resign as Chairman of President Kennedy's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. When asked, Killian said there is "absolutely nothing to it." He did say that the board was not asked to pass on the nomination. Other sources say that he and Clark Clifford, Washington attorney and a member of the group, did give their endorsement.

PRESIDENT Kennedy kept his choice so secret until almost the point of announcement that those he knew to

be opposed had no chance to mount a counter-offensive once they realized he was about to tap McCone. There was only time enough for a leak to the press half a day before the appointment.

Killian's successor as President Eisenhower's scientific adviser, George Kistiakowsky, also is reported to be unhappy, as is Mr. Kennedy's science adviser, Jerome Wiesner. Such feelings appear to reflect views of a number of scientists and others who have become involved in the nuclear test ban issue. They have never forgiven McCone for what he did during the 1956 presidential campaign.

After Adlai Stevenson had come out for a test ban, 10 scientists at the California Institute of Technology issued a statement of support. McCone, then a Cal Tech trustee, was outraged. He contended the scientists, among them Harrison Brown and Thomas Lauritsen, were approving a unilateral stoppage of tests by the United States.

He wrote a letter to Lauritsen saying the scientists' statement was "obviously designed to create fear in the minds of the uninformed that radioactive fallout from H-bomb tests endangers life."

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